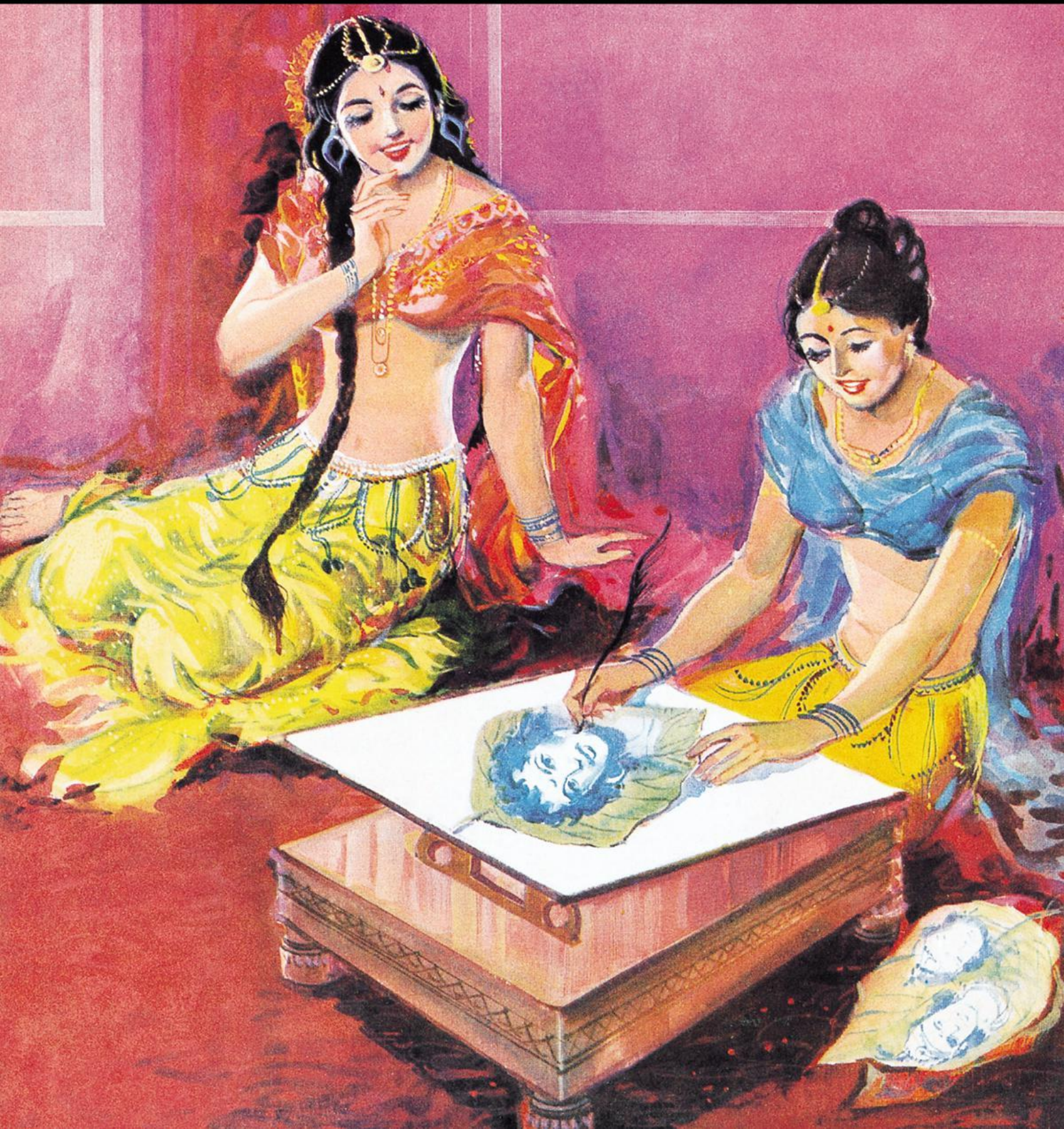




ANIRUDDHA

BELOVED GRANDSON OF KRISHNA

Vol 663





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ANIRUDDHA



USHA WAS THE DAUGHTER OF THE NOBLE ASURA KING, BANA OF THE THOUSAND ARMS.

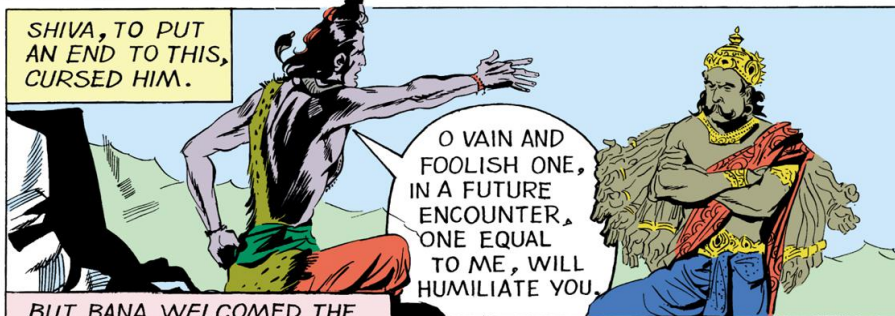
BANA WAS A DEVOTEE OF LORD SHIVA. ONE DAY WITH HIS THOUSAND ARMS, HE PLAYED VARIOUS MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AS SHIVA DANCED THE TANDAVA.



SHIVA, IMMENSELY PLEASED, GRANTED HIM A BOON.



BUT AFTER SOME TIME BANA BECAME VAIN AND COMPLAINED TO SHIVA.



BUT BANA WELCOMED THE CURSE AND LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING A PEER IN FIGHT.

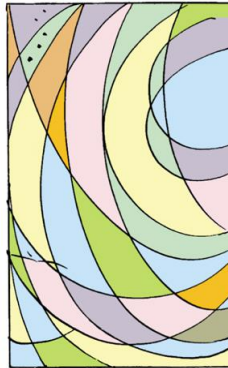
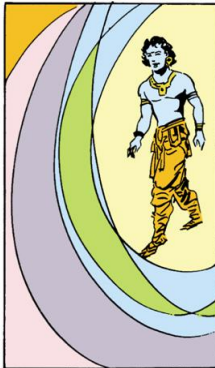
A FEW DAYS LATER, USHA AND HER FRIENDS WERE PICKING FLOWERS IN THEIR FAVOURITE GROVE.



THEY SET THEIR BASKETS DOWN AND LAY DOWN UNDER THE TREES.



AS USHA DROWESED, SHE HAD A DREAM.





WHEN THE OTHERS HAD GONE, SHE TURNED TO USHA.

WHOM ARE YOU LOOKING FOR, O PRINCESS?



USHA DECIDED TO CONFIDE IN HER.

A CERTAIN PRINCE CAME TO ME IN MY DREAM.



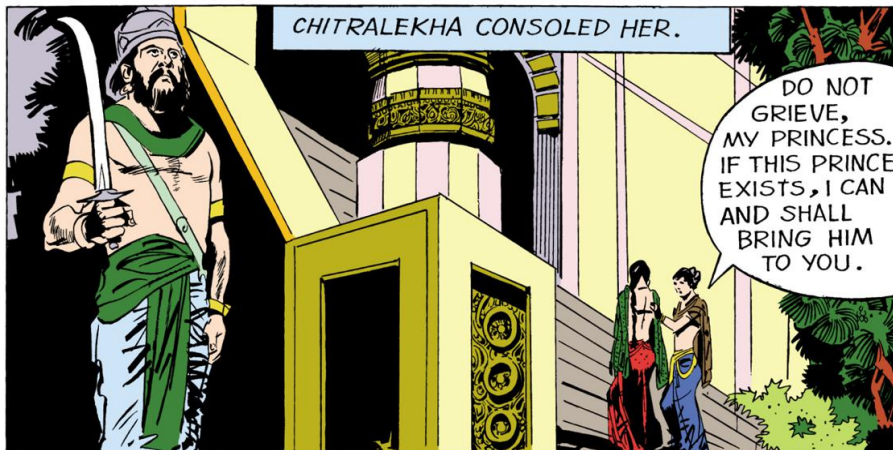
I WANTED TO KEEP HIM WITH ME. BUT HE DISAPPEARED LEAVING ME IN GRIEF.



WHO WAS HE?

I DON'T KNOW. HIS SKIN WAS DARK BLUE AND HE WORE YELLOW GARMENTS.





... GANDHARVAS ...



OR THESE?

NO!

... AND YAKSHAS.



PERHAPS THESE?

NO!

THEN WHEN AMONG THE VARIOUS PORTRAITS SHE PAINTED KRISHNA AND HIS SON PRADYUMNA —



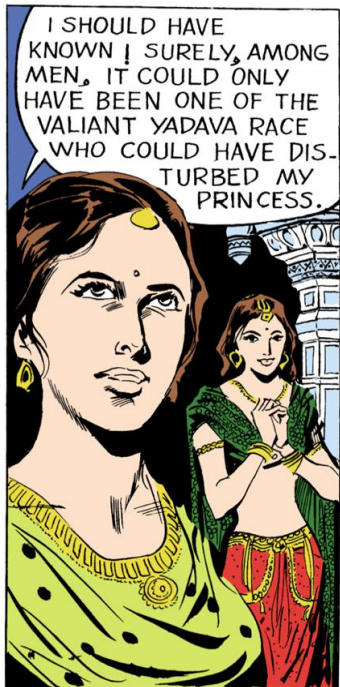
IS HE EITHER OF THESE?

NO! BUT...



USHA WAS ABASHED, BECAUSE THEY RESEMBLED CLOSELY THE PRINCE OF HER DREAM.

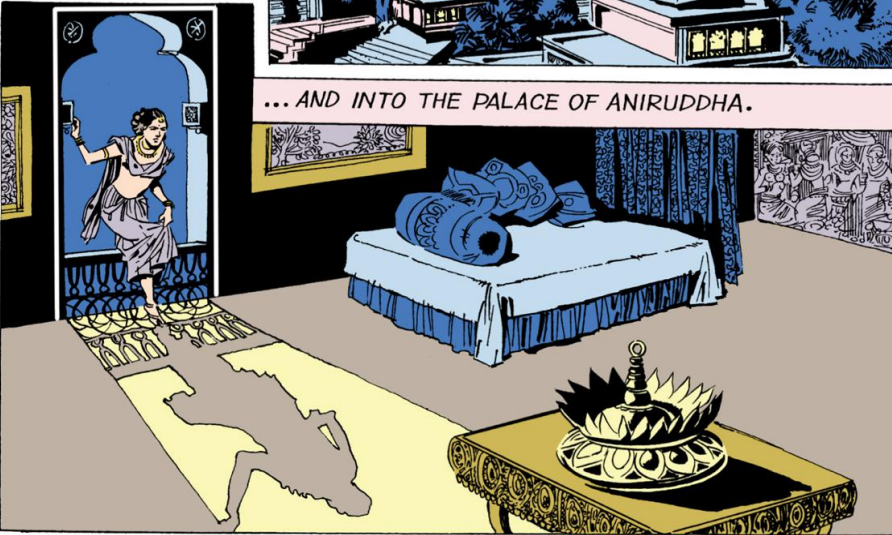
AT LAST CHITRALEKHA DREW THE PORTRAIT OF ANIRUDDHA, SON OF PRADYUMNA. USHA, SUDDENLY SHY, CAST HER EYES DOWN.



... TO DWĀRAKA ...



... AND INTO THE PALACE OF ANIRUDDHA.



SHE FOUND HIM FAST ASLEEP ON HIS BED.



I AM FORTU-
NATE. I SHALL
DO WHAT I
HAVE COME TO
DO BEFORE HE
WAKES UP
AND RESISTS.

THUS, WHILE ANIRUDDHA SLEPT, CHITRALEKHA, USING HER YOGIC POWERS, TRANSPORTED HIM TO THE KINGDOM OF BANA ...



...AND INTO THE PRESENCE OF HER DEAR PRINCESS, USHA.

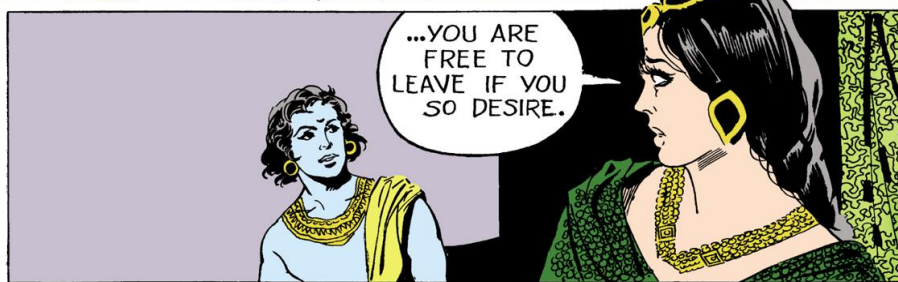


USHA WAS DELIGHTED.

DEAR CHITRALEKHA, YOU HAVE BROUGHT ME GREAT HAPPINESS. I SHALL EVER BE GRATEFUL TO YOU.

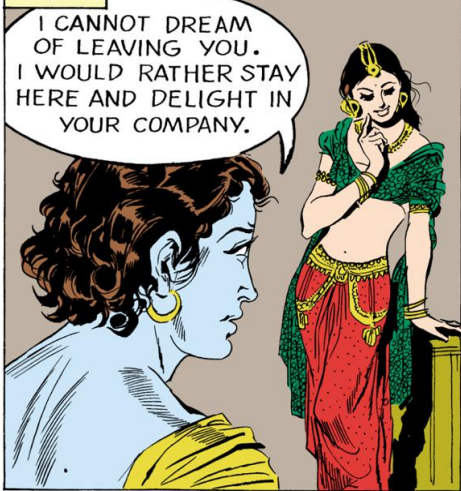


CHITRALEKHA WENT AWAY, LEAVING USHA WITH ANIRUDDHA.

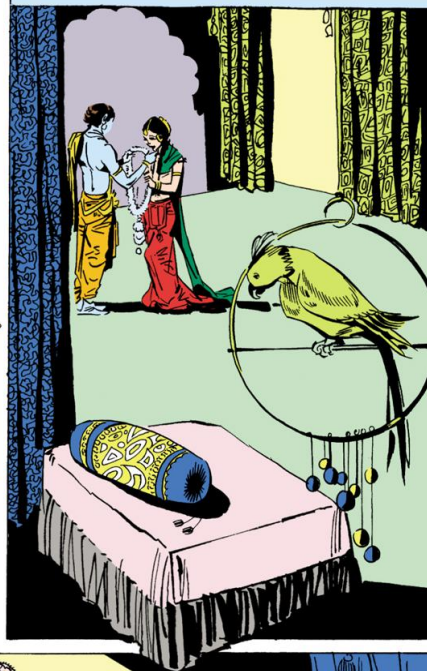


BUT ANIRUDDHA WAS NOT ABLE TO TAKE HIS EYES OFF THE LOVELY USHA.

I CANNOT DREAM OF LEAVING YOU. I WOULD RATHER STAY HERE AND DELIGHT IN YOUR COMPANY.



THUS IMPRISONED BY THE TENDER ATTENTIONS OF USHA, ANIRUDDHA MARRIED HER.



SHE ENTERTAINED HIM WITH SONG AND DANCE ...



... AND FED HIM WITH THE CHOICEST OF FOODS AND THE SWEETEST OF WORDS.

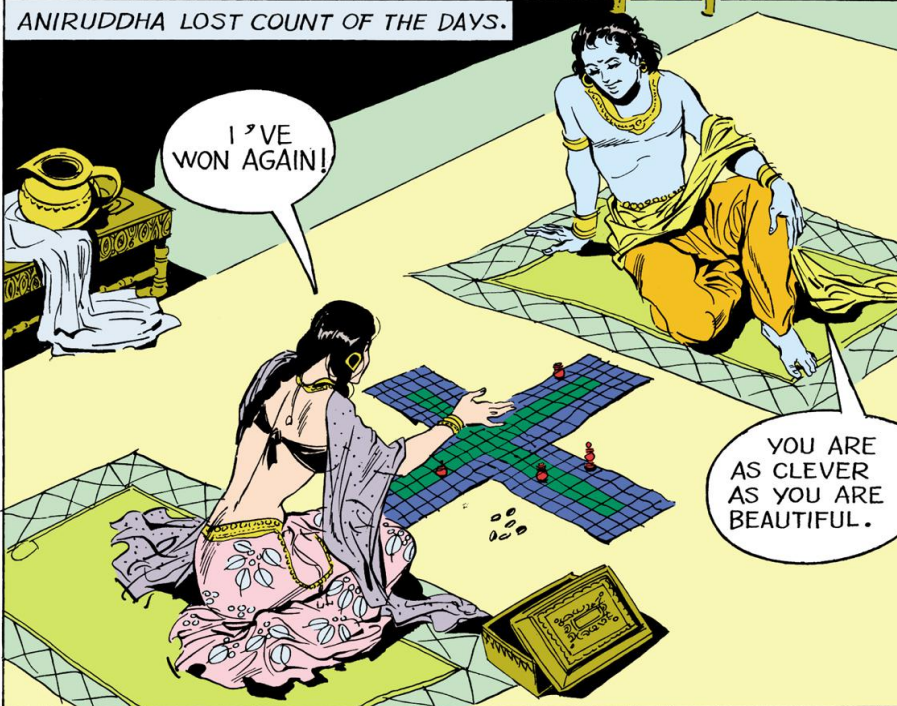
IN MY DREAMS YOU
HAUNTED ME. IN FLESH
AND BLOOD YOU
SPIRIT ME AWAY.



ANIRUDDHA LOST COUNT OF THE DAYS.

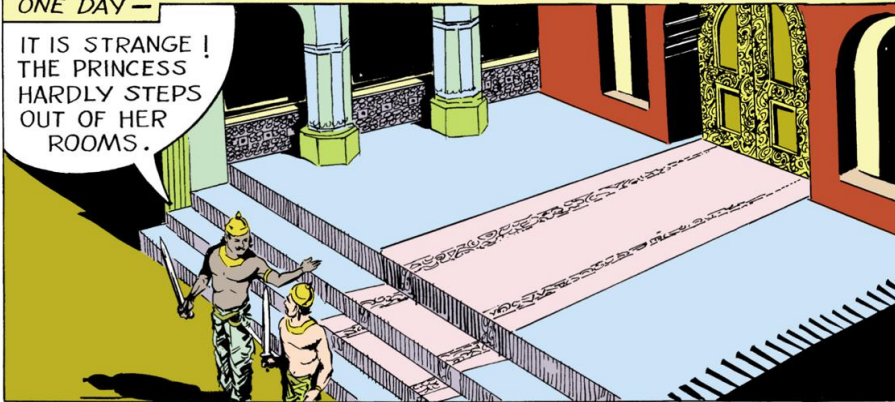
I'VE
WON AGAIN!

YOU ARE
AS CLEVER
AS YOU ARE
BEAUTIFUL.



BUT SUCH STOLEN HAPPINESS COULD NOT LAST FOR EVER
ONE DAY —

IT IS STRANGE !
THE PRINCESS
HARDLY STEPS
OUT OF HER
ROOMS.



PERHAPS SHE IS
ILL !



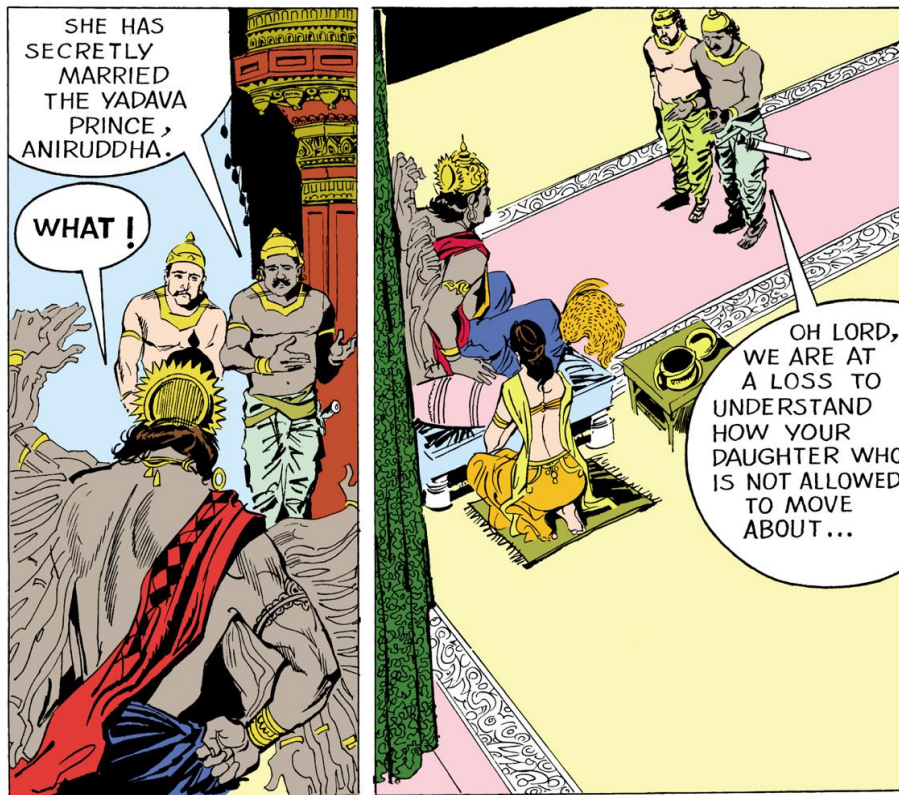
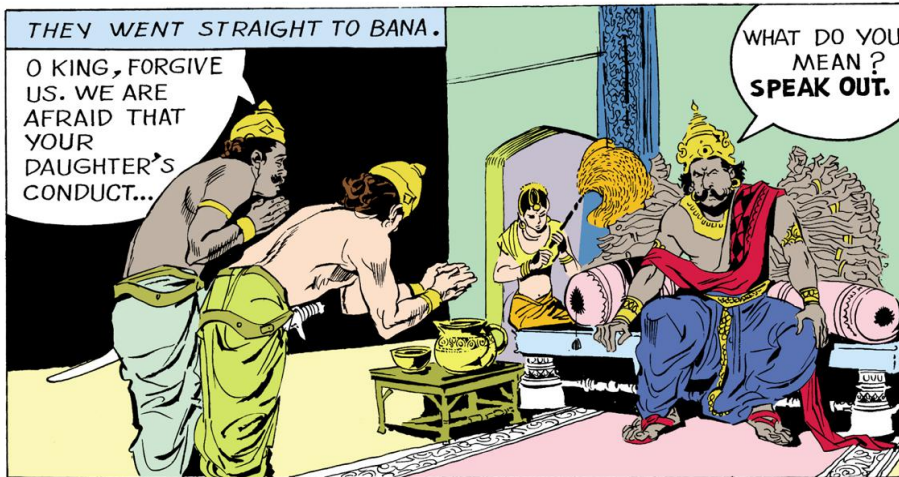
NO !
I SUSPECT...

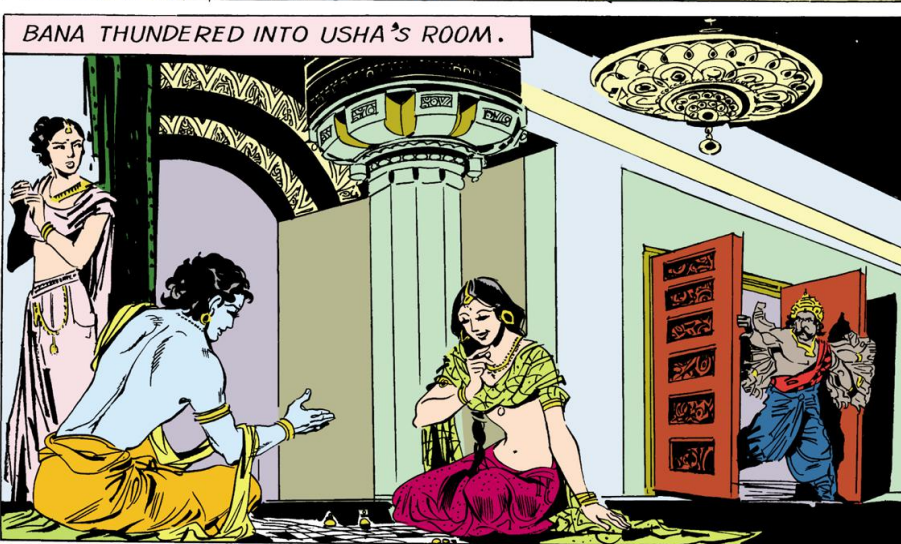
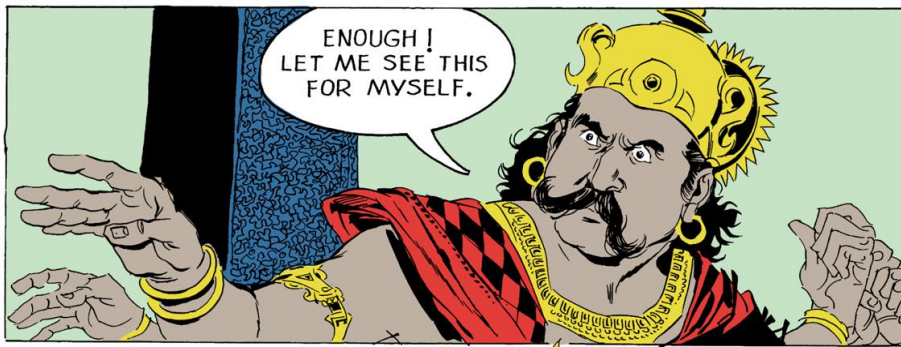


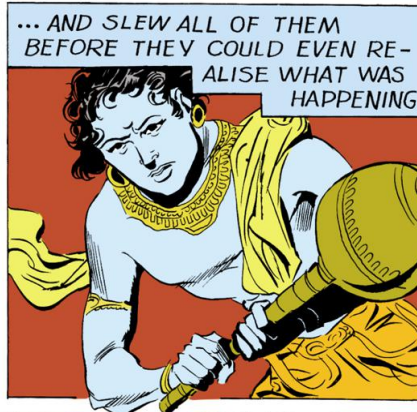
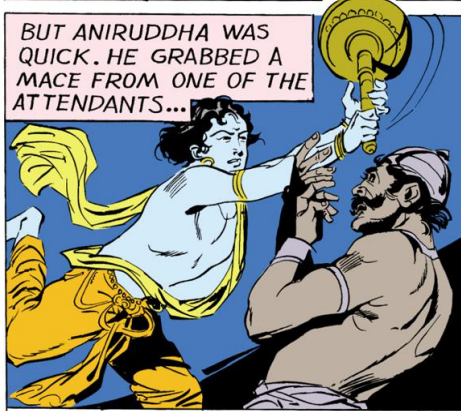
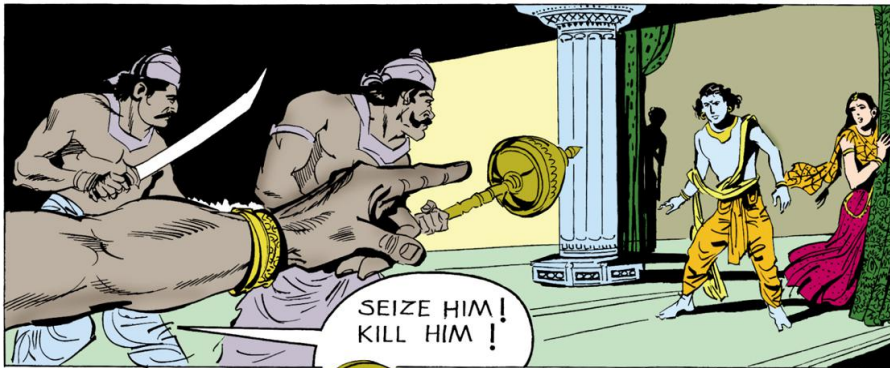
HUSH!
LET US SEE
FOR OURSELVES
BEFORE WE
SUSPECT
ANYONE
OF ANY-
THING.

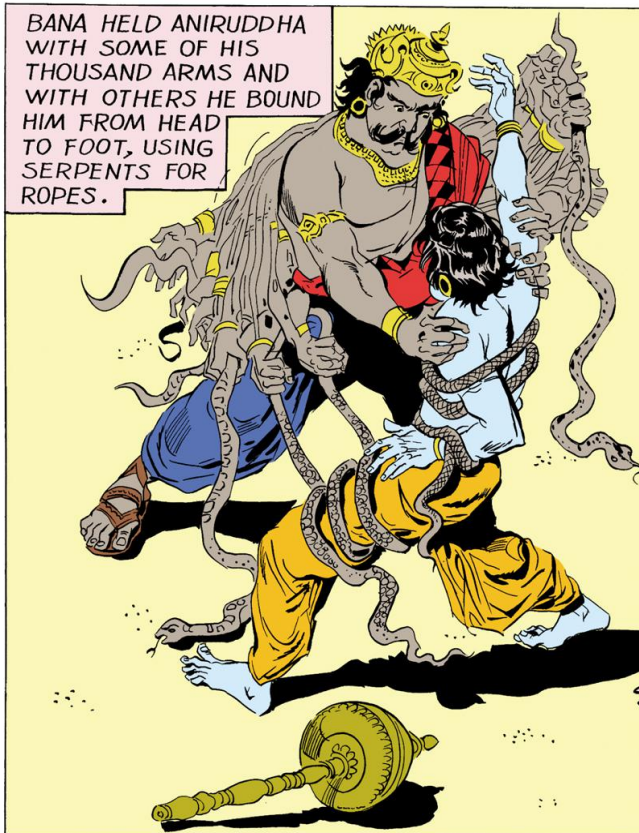
THE ATTENDANTS THEN SPIED ON THE
PRINCESS.

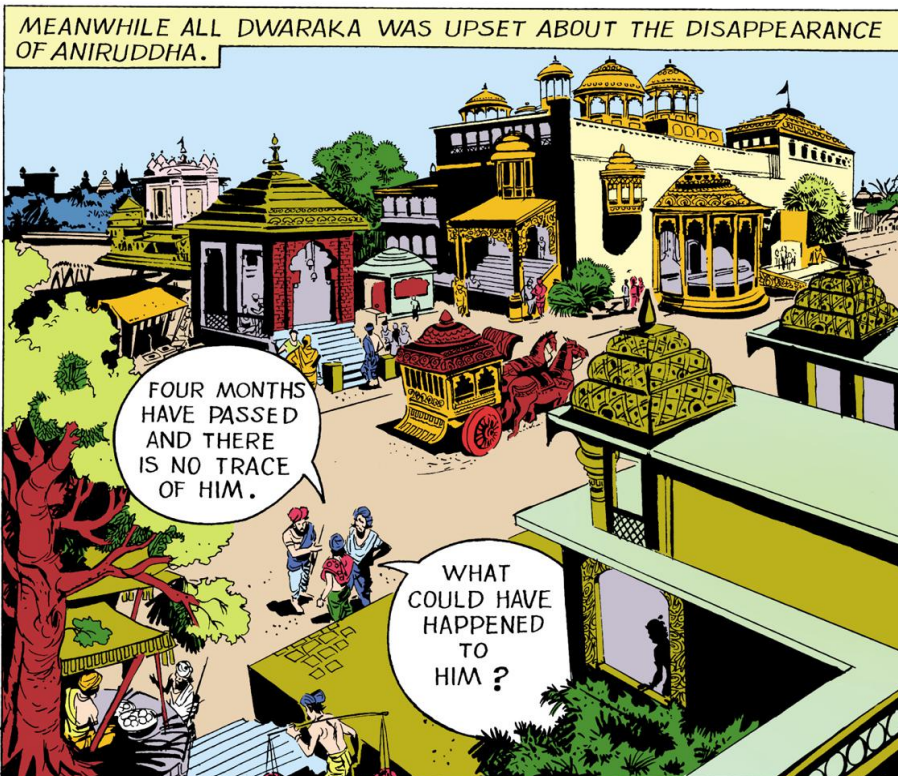


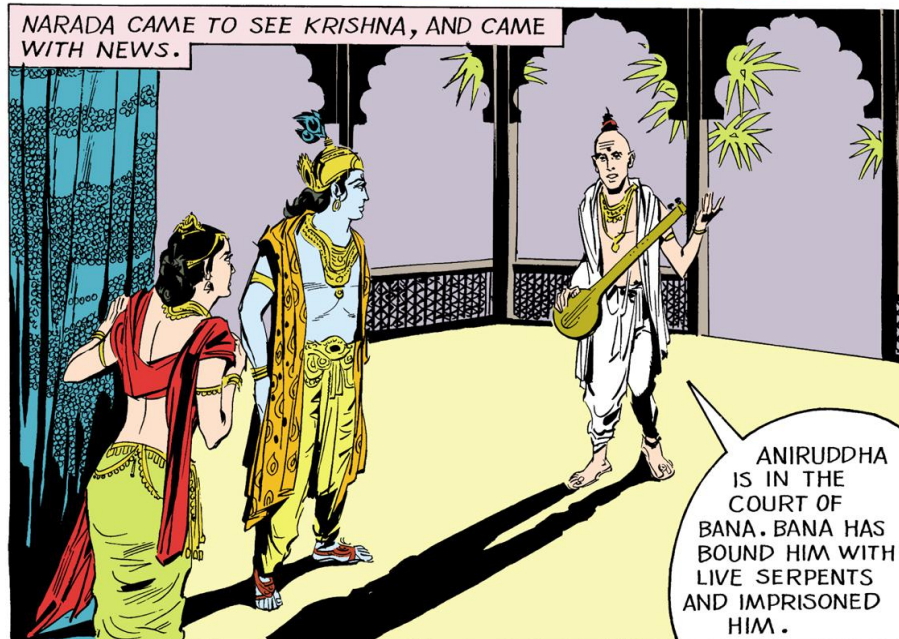












KRISHNA CALLED A COUNCIL OF ALL HIS MEN.



KRISHNA, PRADYUMNA AND SATYAKI WITH HUNDREDS OF WARRIORS SET OUT FOR BANA'S KINGDOM TO RESCUE ANIRUDDHA.



WHEN THEY REACHED, KRISHNA GAVE THE COMMAND.

ATTACK!



BANA'S RAGE KNEW NO BOUNDS HE CAME OUT WITH AN EQUALLY
LARGE ARMY AND A GREAT BATTLE ENSUED.



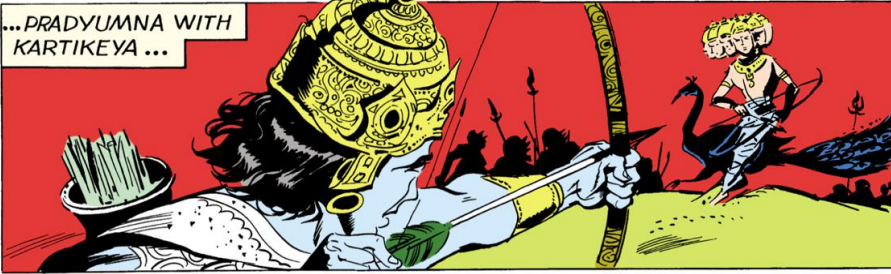
SHIVA WHO HAD PROMISED BANA
HIS PROTECTION AT ALL TIMES, CAME
TO HIS AID, WITH HIS SON, KARTIKEYA.



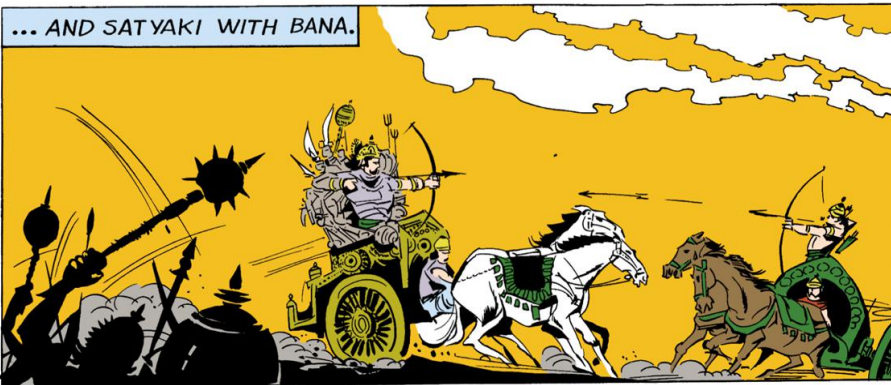
KRISHNA FOUGHT WITH SHIVA...



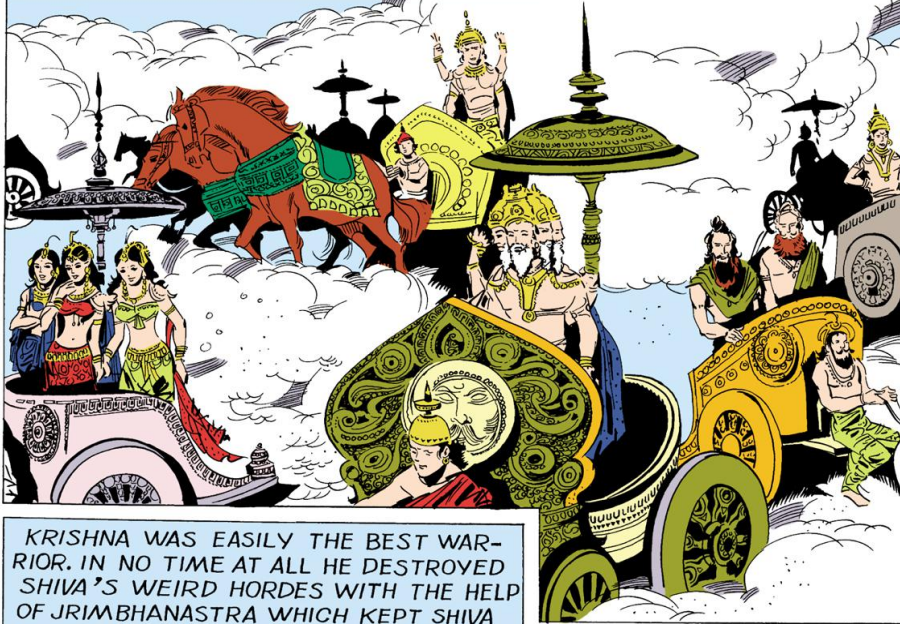
...PRADYUMNA WITH
KARTIKEYA ...



... AND SATYAKI WITH BANA.



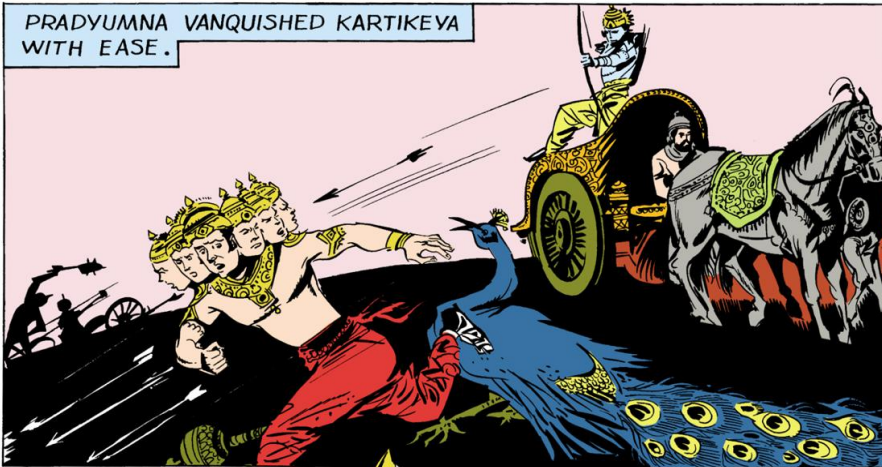
ALL THE CELESTIALS, HEADED BY BRAHMA, THE SAGES, THE GANDHARVAS, THE APSARAS AND YAKSHAS CAME IN THEIR CHARIOTS TO WATCH THE MIGHTY BATTLE.



KRISHNA WAS EASILY THE BEST WARRIOR. IN NO TIME AT ALL HE DESTROYED SHIVA'S WEIRD HORDES WITH THE HELP OF JIMBHANA STRA WHICH KEPT SHIVA STUPEFIED.



PRADYUMNA VANQUISHED KARTIKEYA
WITH EASE.

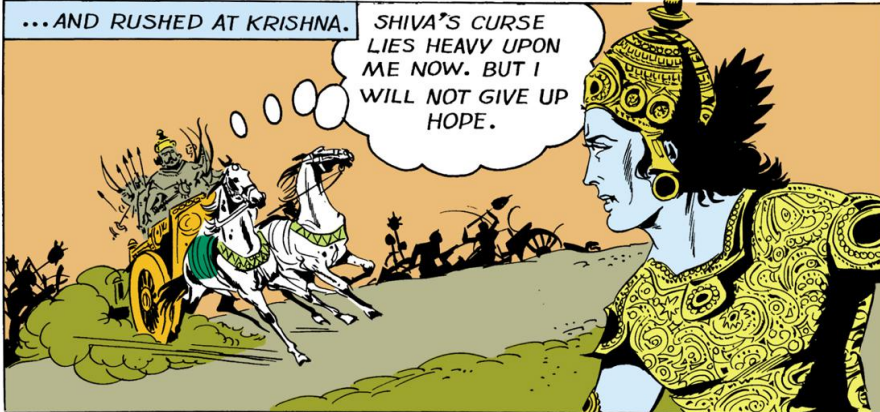


BANA WAS BLIND WITH ANGER.
HE LEFT SATYAKI...

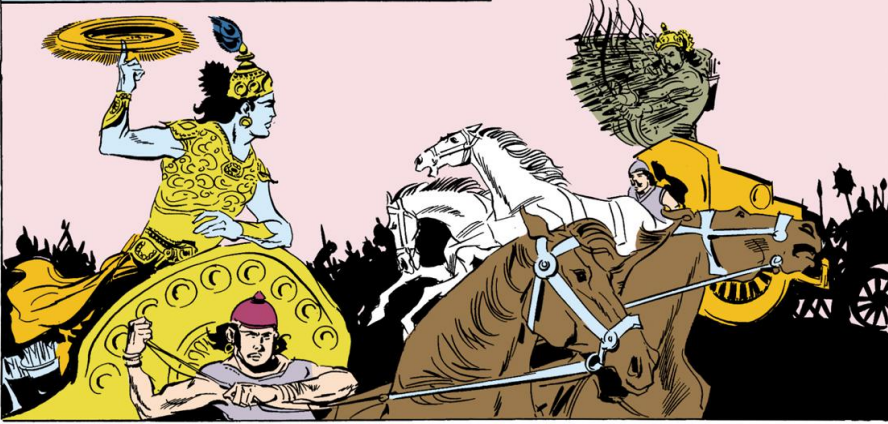


...AND RUSHED AT KRISHNA.

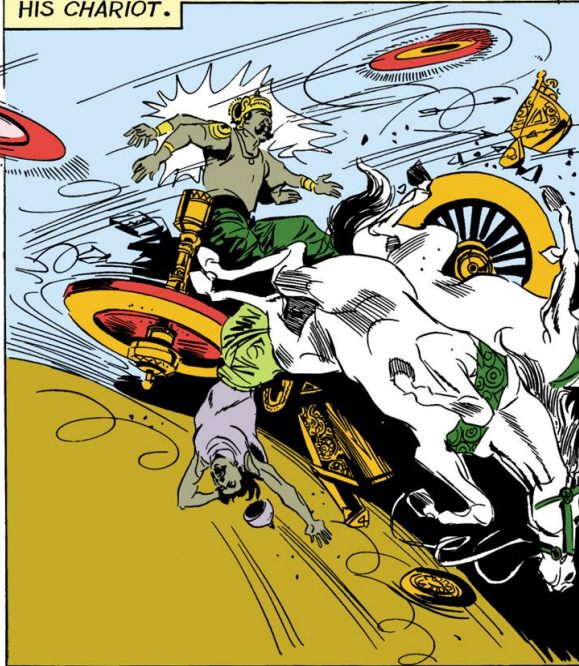
SHIVA'S CURSE
LIES HEAVY UPON
ME NOW. BUT I
WILL NOT GIVE UP
HOPE.



WITH HIS THOUSAND ARMS, HE DREW FIVE HUNDRED BOWS AT THE SAME TIME AND SET TWO ARROWS IN EACH.



BUT KRISHNA WAS TOO QUICK FOR HIM. WITH HIS DISCUS HE CUT OFF NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY-SIX OF BANA'S ARMS, KILLED HIS CHARIOTEER AND HORSES, AND DESTROYED HIS CHARIOT.



AND THEN HE BLEW HIS CONCH IN TRIUMPH.

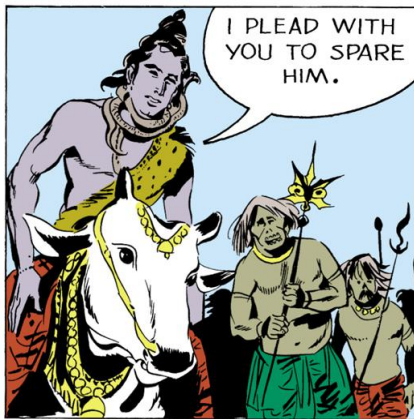


BANASURA TURNED TO ENTER HIS CITY GATES.



KRISHNA WAS ABOUT TO FOLLOW WHEN—





I PLEAD WITH YOU TO SPARE HIM.



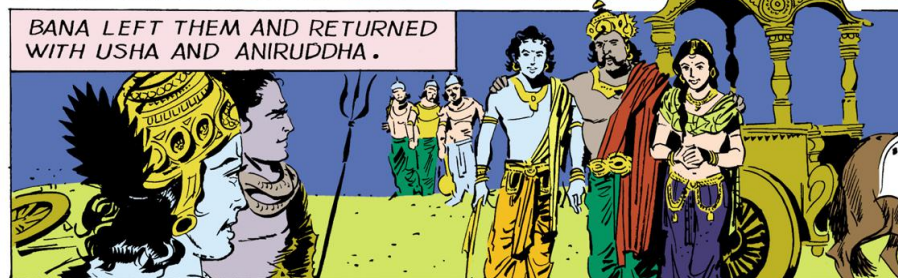
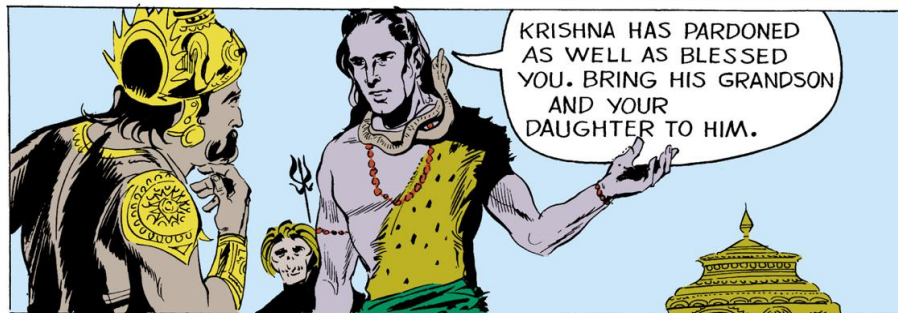
KRISHNA SMILED AT SHIVA.

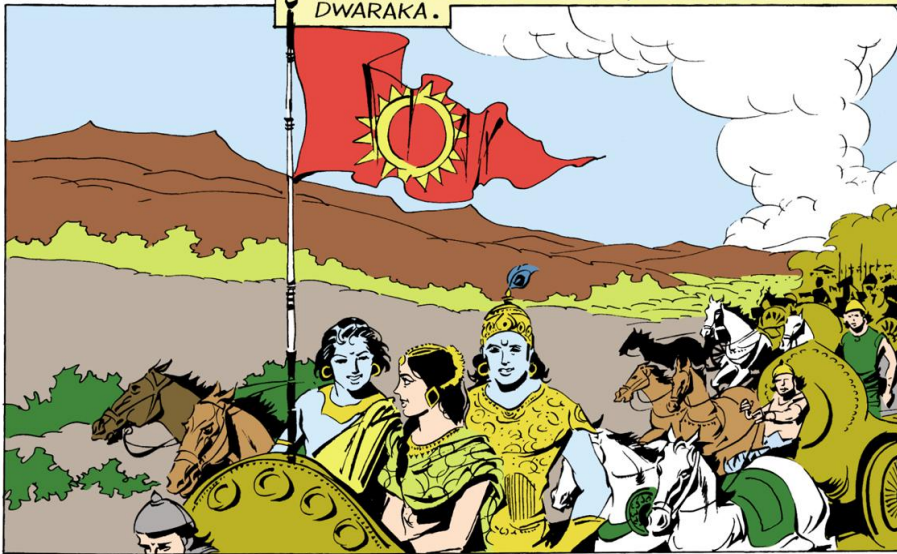
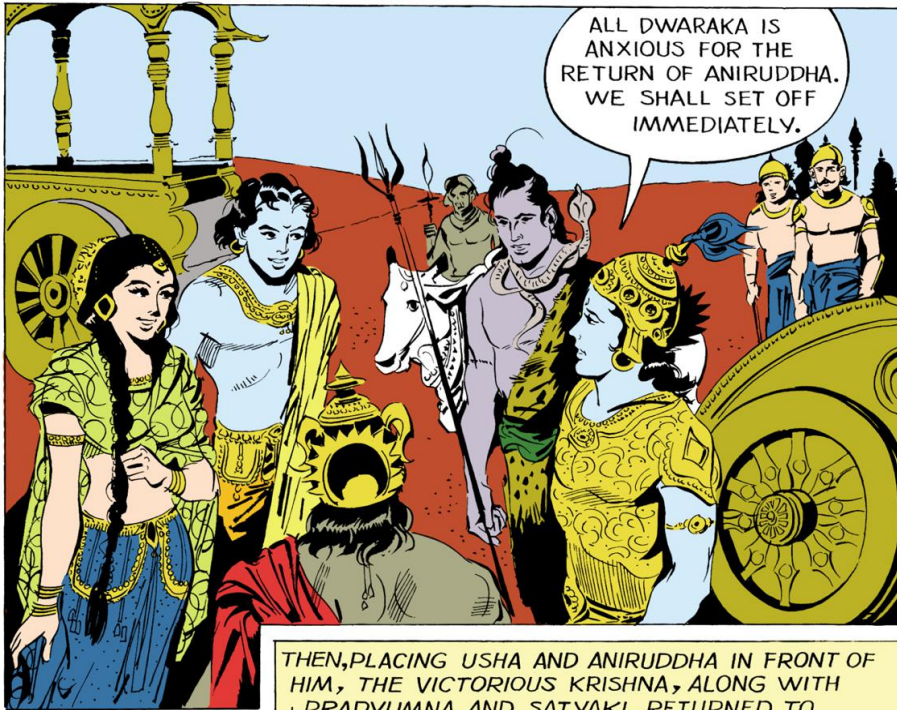
IT IS ONLY TO HUMBLE HIM THAT I HAVE CUT OFF ALL EXCEPT FOUR OF HIS ARMS.



AND TO RELIEVE THE EARTH OF HER BURDEN, I HAVE DESTROYED HIS ARMY.

HE STILL HAS FOUR ARMS LEFT. BESIDES I GRANT HIM IMMORTALITY AND EVERLASTING YOUTH.





WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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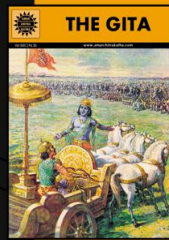
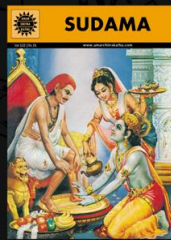
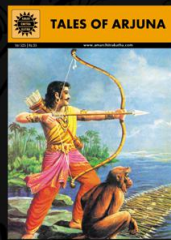
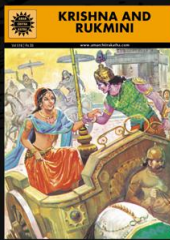
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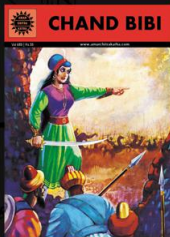
ANIRUDDHA

When Usha, daughter of the asura king, Bana, dreamt of a handsome youth, she lost her heart to him completely. Little did she know that he was Aniruddha, grandson of Krishna. Nor did she ever imagine that their love would lead to a fierce battle between the Yadava forces of Krishna and the demon army of Bana, aided by the wild hordes of Shiva.

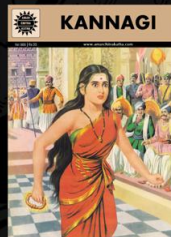
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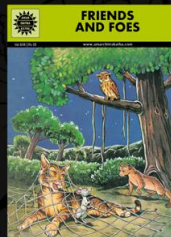
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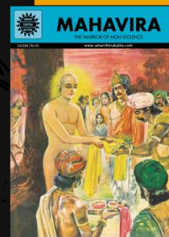
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